

REMARKS

At the time the Office Action was mailed, claims 8 – 11 were pending. In this response, Claim 8 has been amended, and new claims 12-16 have been added.

Specification

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the title was not descriptive. Applicants respectfully submit that new apparatus claims have been added, and that the existing title is descriptive of the invention as currently claimed.

Rejections of Claims Under 35 USC Section 102

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8 - 11 as being anticipated by Baugh (U.S. Patent 5,074,712)(“Baugh”). To the extent the rejection applies to the amended claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 8 recites a method of installing a clamshell device around an element, wherein the clamshell device is selected from vortex-induced vibration reduction devices and drag reduction devices, where the clamshell tool is operated to close the clamshell device around the element.

Applicants respectfully submit that Baugh does not teach or suggest the use of a tool to position a clamshell device adjacent to an element, to position a clamshell device around an element, or to close a clamshell device around an element. Baugh's only teachings concerning a tool are that ROV's may be used for remote operations (Baugh, Col. 2, lines 31-36).

Applicants respectfully submit that Baugh does not teach the use of a clamshell tool.

Applicants respectfully submit that Baugh does not teach or suggest the desirability of a method of installing a clamshell device selected from vortex-induced vibration reduction devices and drag reduction devices, by operating the tool to close the clamshell device around the element, as recited in Claim 8.

Dependent claims 9-11 are allowable for at least the same reasons as the allowable independent claim 8 from which they depend.

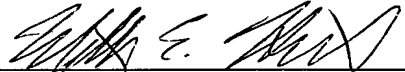
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 8-11.

Conclusion

Applicants have responded to each and every ground for rejection and respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited art. In the event the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the above-presented materials, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below prior to the issuance of any formal action.

Respectfully submitted,

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